Serial No. 09/957,463 Amendment Dated: October 13, 2004

Reply to Office Action July 13, 2004

Attorney Docket No. 1748X/50407

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Original) A device for carrying out a solid-catalyzed reaction, comprising:

a plurality of chambers, each chamber comprising a catalyst; and

a common evaporation unit for evaporating liquid starting materials, wherein the evaporation unit is in thermally conductive contact with the plurality of chambers,

wherein an area of the evaporation unit in which evaporation of the liquid starting materials substantially takes place is at least partially surrounded by the plurality of chambers.

Claim 2. (Original) A device according to Claim 1, wherein the evaporation unit is entirely surrounded by the chambers.

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Claim 3. (Original) A device according to Claim 1, wherein the evaporation unit is arranged in an edge region of the plurality of chambers, such that it adjoins the plurality of chambers.

Claim 4. (Original) A device according to Claim 1, wherein the evaporation unit is substantially in direct contact with catalyst layers of the plurality of chambers.

Claim 5. (Original) A device according to Claim 1, wherein the evaporation unit is rigidly connected to the plurality of chambers.

Claim 6. (Original) A device according to Claim 1, wherein the evaporation unit is movably connected to the plurality of catalyst-containing chambers.

Claim 7. (Original) A device according to Claim 1, wherein the evaporation unit is thermally coupled to the plurality of chambers such that the thermal coupling varies with a temperature gradient in the evaporation unit.

Claim 8. (Original) A device according to Claim 7, wherein the thermal coupling is designed to be variable in an inversely proportional manner to the temperature gradient.

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Claim 9. (Original) A device according to Claim 1, wherein the evaporation unit comprises a plurality of parallel channels.

Claim 10. (Original) A device according to Claim 1, wherein the starting material is a hydrocarbon.

Claim 11. (Original) A device according to Claim 10, wherein the hydrocarbon is at least one of an ether or an alcohol.

Claim 12. (Cancelled)

Claim 13. (Original) A fuel cell system comprising a device according to Claim 1.

Claim 14. (Cancelled)

Claim 15. (New) A device for generating a gaseous fuel, comprising:

a catalytic reactor for performing a catalytic reaction in which said gaseous fuel is generated, said catalytic reactor comprising a plurality of chambers, each of said chambers containing a catalyst material that is used in said catalytic reaction; and

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an evaporator unit for evaporating liquid starting materials, said evaporator unit being in thermal contact with the plurality of chambers comprised by the catalytic reactor;

wherein, an interface between said evaporator unit and said catalytic reactor is three dimensional, such that said evaporator is at least partially surrounded by said plurality of chambers.

Claim 16. (New) A device according to Claim 15, wherein the evaporation unit is entirely surrounded by the chambers.

Claim 17. (New) A device according to Claim 15, wherein the evaporation unit is arranged in an edge region of the plurality of chambers, such that it adjoins the plurality of chambers.

Claim 18. (New) A device according to Claim 15, wherein the evaporation unit is movably connected to the plurality of catalyst-containing chambers.